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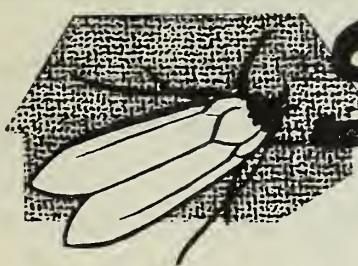
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# U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Office of Information



Picture Story No.93 For Release April 19, 1953



# Stop Wool Damage in Homes . . .

Fabric pests---clothes moths and carpet beetles---do about 350 million dollars worth of damage every year. This damage may not seem as disastrous as fields of grain destroyed by insects, but the millions of ruined suits, coats, rugs, and blankets that fall prey to these wool-feeding pests each year add up to a tremendous dollars and cents total.

What the home owner can do to prevent the destruction of these pests is told in the new U. S. Department of Agriculture home and garden bulletin no. 24, "Clothes Moths and Carpet Beetles---How To Combat Them". Single copies of this publication are available free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Controlling these pests in the home is a two-part job:

1. Keeping them from feeding on your woolens.
2. Removing infestations from your home, and preventing them from getting back in.

Several weapons the homeowner can rely on to protect woolens from feeding damage include:

EQ-53, the new development of USDA scientists, provides easy-to-use protection for all washable woolens. Add a few spoonfuls of EQ-53 solution to your wash or rinse water in the washing machine. This will protect your washed woolens for a year or more if they are stored; or if they are in use, until they are washed again or dry cleaned.

*Household DDT oil sprays and fluoride-type mothproofing solutions* applied to woolens that can't be washed---rugs, coats, and suits---protect them from insect feeding for a season or longer.

*Moth flakes and crystals*, if used in nearly airtight containers that are seldom opened, provide good protection for stored woolens.

You can get help from dry cleaners and launderers who are equipped to pest-proof your woolens; also from cold storage firms, and fumigators.

Solution of the second problem---ridding the home of these pests---depends on a combination of good house cleaning and the use of the insect-killing chemicals chlordane and lindane.

*Routine but good house cleaning* with special attention to cracks behind baseboards and in closets will clean up the lint and hair that the insects depend on for food. It will also remove the pests themselves.

*Applying household sprays containing chlordane or lindane* to closet walls and floors and to cracks behind baseboards where the insects breed, provides even further assurance against your keeping these wool-eating boarders.

*Pest control operators* can be called in to handle difficult fabric pest problems if the home owner prefers.



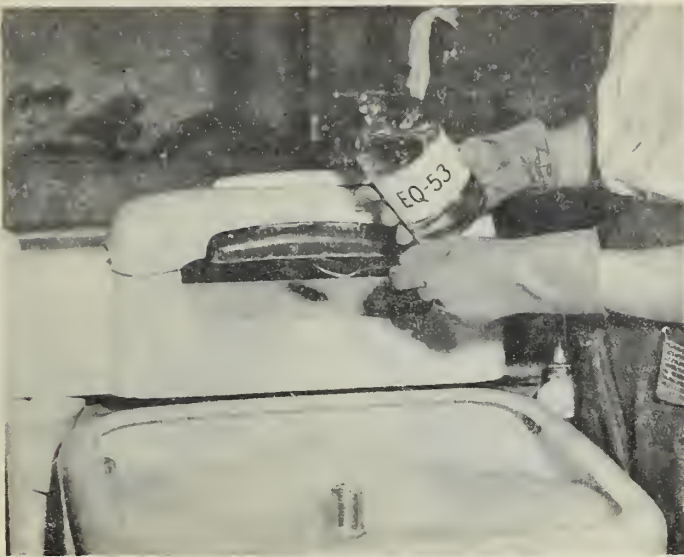
1. & 2. Insect damage like this, occurring in homes the nation over, adds up to more than \$350 million worth of destruction every year. N-12385 and N-12386



3. The insects that do the damage.

At the top are grouped three stages of the black carpet beetle, the wool-eating larva at the left; at the right the pupa; and lower center the adult. The black beetle is about 1/8 inch in length. The center grouping shows from left to right the pupa, adult and larva of the furniture carpet beetle. The lower group contains different stages of the more familiar clothes moth. The adult moth is upper left; a cocoon in the center, and the larva at the right. Lower left is a cocoon with cast pupal skin protruding. EN-780





4. A few tablespoons of EQ-53 added to the wash or rinse water will protect washable woolens from insect feeding damage. N-12234

5. When dry these DDT-sprayed wool garments can be hung in the closet without further worry about their serving as a meal for hungry larvae of clothes moths or carpet beetles. N-12387



6. Household DDT oil sprays are equally effective in preventing fabric pest damage when sprayed on both top and underside of wool rugs and carpets. N-12388





7. Carpet beetle and clothes moth larvae thrive on wool carpet or rug fibers in such hard-to-reach places. Household DDT Sprays can protect these spots. N-12389



8. Moth flakes and crystals provide good protection from insect damage for stored woolens if the storage container is nearly airtight and seldom opened. Napthalene or paradichlorobenzene fumes must be confined to build up and maintain lethal concentrations. N-12390



9. Good house cleaning---with special attention to cracks in closet walls and floors---removes the insects themselves. Be sure to empty the dust bag of your vacuum immediately after using, or the pests will find new hiding---and feeding---places in your home. N-12391



10. When applied to walls and floors of closets and into cracks behind baseboards, household sprays of chlordane or lindane will kill insect pests that attempt to set up housekeeping for several weeks after application. N-12392

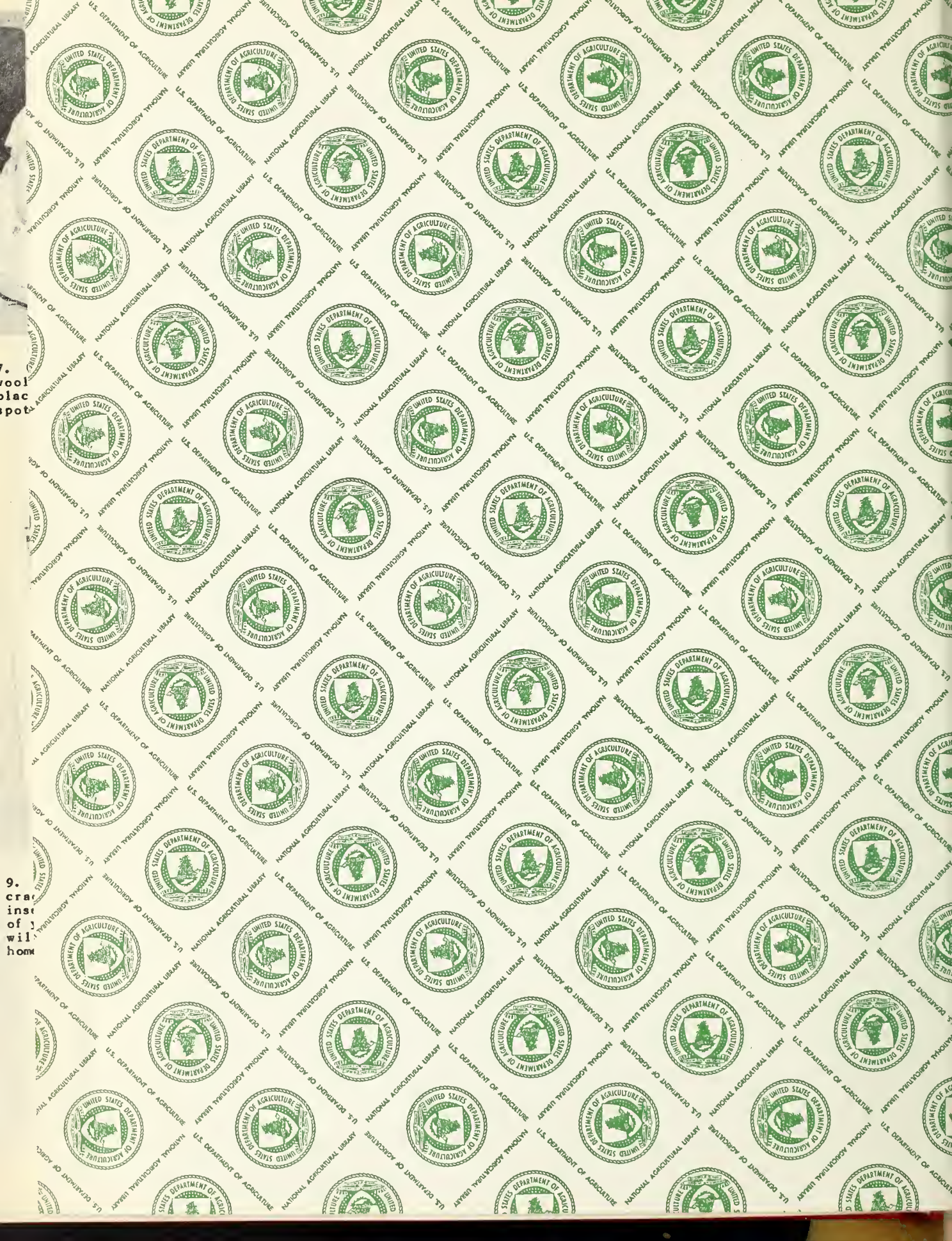
8x10 glossy photographs of this series are free to writers and editors on request to the Press Service, Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.











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